Proceedings of the Indian History Congress

68th Session
Delhi 2007

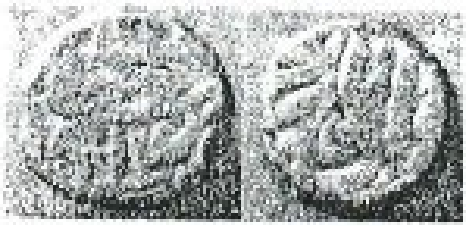
INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS
Delhi, 2008

COPPER COINS OF AKBAR FROM KANGRA MUSEUM

Shamoon Ahmad and I.A. Hashmi

Mughal currency was primarily based on three metals, i.e. gold, silver and copper. Mercantile activities of the empire were mostly transacted* in round *Muhrs* (gold), *Rupya* (silver) and *Dam* (copper).[1] The copper *Dam* was the most popular medium of transaction as frequent references are found in contemporary sources like *A'in-i Akbari* and *Akbarnamah*. Weight of a *Dam* was 5 taks, i.e. 1 *tola*, 8 *masha*, and 7 *surkh*; it was the fortieth part of *Rupya* in Akbar's reign.[2] Before Akbar this coin was called *Paisa*, and also *Bahloli*; but he rename the copper coin and this was known as *Dam* at the time of the compilation of the *A'in-i-Akbari*.[3] For purpose of calculation, the *Dam* was divided into twenty five parts, each of which is called *Jetal*. This imaginary division was used by accountants.[4] The *Adhela* was half of a *Dam*; however the quarter *Dam* was known as *Paola* and one eighths of a *Dam* as *Damri*. On one side the place was given where it was struck, and on the other the date.[5] The practice of striking the mint name on one side and date on another was prevailing at the time of Babar and Humayun also. Details of these coins are found nor only in literary sources but there are also represented in various catalogues of the Museums in India and abroad.

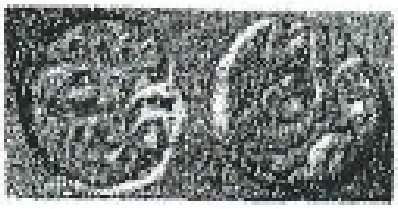
In this context we present six unpublished Mughal copper coins from the cabinet of Kangra Museum in Himachal Pradesh for the perusal of our historians and the students of numismatics. The detail of the coins is as below:-



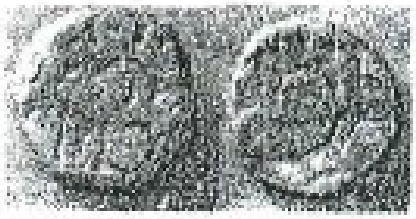
Coin No.1

Ruler – Akbar
Size – 1.90 cm.
Weight – 20.35 gm.
Date – AH 963
Mint – Narnol
Legend – Obv: *Seh* سه
Sast سست
Nahsad نهصد
963 ۹۶۳
Sanah سنه
Rev: *Narnol* نارنول
Fulus فلوس

Sanah سنه
Rev: *Narnol* نارنول
Fulus فلوس
Darb ضرب



Coin No.5
Ruler – Akbar
Size – 1.90 cm.
Weight – 20.47 gm.
Date – AH 970
Mint – Narnol
Legend – Obv: *Se* [illegible] وهفتاد
Sast نهصد
Nahsad ۹۷۰
970 سنه
Sanah نارنول
Rev: *Narnol* فلوس
Fulus ضرب
Darb



Coin No.6
Ruler – Akbar
Size – 2.00 cm.
Weight – 20.25 gm.
Date – AH 974
Mint – Narnol
Legend – Obv *Seh* چهار
Sast هفتاد
Nahsad نهصد
974 ۹۷۴
Sanah في سنه
Rev: *Narnol* نارنول
Fulus فلوس
Darb ضرب

Details given above coins shows that all the six coins were issued from Narnol a well represented mint of Mughal coinage. In AH 963 Narnol was governed by Haji Khan, an officer of the Suris, and was driven out by Tardi Khan, an officer of the Mughals.[6] Narnol was the head quarter of a *Sarkar* in the province of Agra under Akbar, and was one of his mints for issuing copper coins. However a few rare copper coins were noticed issued by Jahangir and a unique gold coin of Aurangzeb is also in the cabinet of State Museum Lucknow.[7] Narnol mint was operative under the Suri rulers too.

required as supplementary and as a scientific source of history.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to Archaeological Survey of India for providing the material for research purpose. Special thanks are due to Dr. K.C. Nauriyal, Superintenoing Archaeologist, Shimla Circle, ASI, for his kind help and cooperation.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Abu'l Fadl, *A'in-i-Akbari*, I (tr. H. Blochman), Calcutta, 1993 (reprint), p.33.
2. Ibid., p.32.
3. Ibid., pp.32-33.
4. Dam was not simply the term of accountants, as is common belief of our historians: this was actually the *Jeral* which was used for the above purpose. See *A'in-i-Akbari*, I, p.32; Sanjay Garg (ed.), *Parmeshwari Lal Gupta's Coins and History of Medieval India*, Delhi, 1997, p.199.
5. P.L. Gupta, *Coins*, New Delhi, 2004 (reprint), p.146.
6. *A'in-i-Akbari*, I, p.335.
7. C.R. Singhal, *Supplementary Catalogue of Mughal Coins in the State Museum, Lucknow*, 1965, p.33.
8. The list of mints is as follows- Agra, Ahmadabad, Ahmadnagar, Ajmer, Ajmer Salimabad, Akbarnagar, Akbarpur, Akbarpur, Tanda, Allahabad, Alver, Amer, Amirkot, Anhirwala Pattan, Atak Banaras, Awadh, Bahraich, Bairata, Bulapur, Berar, Bhakkar, Bhera Dilwara, Badaun, Burhanpur, Chainpur, Chittor, Chunar, Dehli, Deogir, Dera, Dogaon, Fatehabad, Fatehpur, Gobindpur, Gorakhpur, Gwaliar, Hissar, Hissar-Firoza, Jalandhar, Jalalnagar, Jalalpur, Jaunpur, Kabul, Kalanaur, Kalunjar, Kalpi, Kashmir, Khairabad, Khairpur, Kora, Kiratpur, Lahor, Lakhnau, Madankot, Malpur, Mangarh, Manikpur, Mirtha, Multan, Narnaul, Odisa, Patna, Qanauj urf Shahgargh, Qandhar, Sarangpur, Sarhind, Salimabad, Sambhal, Shergadh, Sherkot, Sherpur, Sironj, Sirsa, Srinagar, Sultanpur, Tatta, Udaipur, Ujjain, Urdu-Zafar-Qarin. See R.D. Bhatt and Sheetal Bhatt, Mint places of the Mughals and the others in the name of the Mughals, *Numismatic Studies*, Vol.V, 1997, p.139.
9. Sanjay Garg, op.cit., pp.227-232.
10. Ibid., p.212.
11. loc. cit.
12. *A'in-i-Akbari*, II, (tr. S.H. Jarret), p.183.